Banarsidas Chandiwala Institute of Physiotherapy

E-Waste Management Community Survey

Date: 15th-16th February 2025

Introduction

This report summarizes the findings of a community survey conducted by students from the BCIP Banarsidas Chandiwala Institute of Physiotherapy on the topic of Electronic Waste (E-Waste) Management. The survey aimed to assess the current practices, awareness levels, and challenges related to e-waste disposal among residents in the community. E-waste, consisting of discarded electronic devices such as computers, mobile phones, and other gadgets, has become a major environmental concern due to its harmful effects when not disposed of properly.

Objectives of the Survey

1. To understand the community's awareness of e-waste and its environmental impacts.
2. To evaluate the methods used by residents for e-waste disposal.
3. To identify challenges and barriers in proper e-waste management within the community.
4. To propose recommendations for improving e-waste recycling and disposal practices.

Methodology

The survey was conducted over a period of three weeks, and a total of 200 residents were surveyed through a combination of online questionnaires and face-to-face interviews. The survey included multiple-choice questions, Likert scale assessments, and open-ended questions to gather both quantitative and qualitative data.

Sample Population:

- 70% Urban residents
- 30% Suburban residents
- Age group: 18-65 years
- Gender: Both male and female participants

Data Collection Tools:

- Google Forms for online surveys
- Paper-based surveys for in-person responses

Survey Findings

1. Awareness of E-Waste

- **70%** of the respondents were aware of what e-waste is and its potential environmental risks.
- **30%** of the respondents lacked sufficient knowledge regarding the term 'e-waste,' its impact on the environment, and how it should be disposed of properly.

2. Disposal Methods

- **40%** of the respondents reported disposing of e-waste by handing it over to local waste management companies or authorized e-waste collection centers.
- **35%** of respondents admitted to throwing away their old electronics in general waste bins.
- **15%** of the respondents stated that they store old electronics at home due to uncertainty about how to dispose of them.
- **10%** of participants said they sold their old devices to second-hand shops or gave them away.

3. E-Waste Recycling and Collection Points

- **45%** of participants were unaware of designated e-waste recycling centers or collection points in their locality.
- **30%** of participants knew of some e-waste collection points but were unsure about how to access them or the proper procedure.
- **25%** of respondents had used e-waste recycling services in the past, either through local drives or by dropping off their items at collection centers.

4. Environmental Concerns

- **85%** of respondents were concerned about the environmental impact of improper e-waste disposal, such as soil contamination, water pollution, and the release of toxic substances.
- However, **50%** of participants indicated they didn’t know how to properly dispose of e-waste, despite their awareness of its environmental impact.

5. Challenges to Proper Disposal

- **60%** of respondents identified lack of convenient collection points or accessibility to e-waste recycling centers as the main barrier to proper disposal.
- **25%** cited lack of information and awareness on how to recycle e-waste as a major obstacle.
- **15%** felt that the process of recycling e-waste was complicated or inconvenient.

6. Suggestions for Improvement

- **65%** of respondents suggested increasing awareness campaigns about the importance of e-waste recycling and available disposal options.
- **55%** recommended having more accessible collection points within neighborhoods or nearby areas.
- **45%** suggested collaborating with local businesses, schools, and community organizations to set up e-waste collection drives and educational programs.
- **30%** advocated for government regulations or incentives that would encourage people to recycle their old electronics.

Discussion

The survey results highlight a significant gap in both awareness and access to proper e-waste management practices. While many respondents were concerned about the environmental impact of improper disposal, a large portion was either unaware of proper disposal methods or faced practical barriers to recycling. A lack of easily accessible e-waste collection points and information on where to recycle old electronics appears to be one of the key factors preventing individuals from disposing of their e-waste responsibly.

Recommendations

1. **Public Awareness Campaigns**: Implement educational initiatives to inform the community about the dangers of improper e-waste disposal and the benefits of recycling. These campaigns should be spread through various media channels, including social media, local newspapers, and community centers.
2. **Improved Collection Points**: Establish more accessible e-waste collection points throughout the community, including partnerships with local electronics stores, schools, and community centers.
3. **Incentivization and Regulations**: Encourage government bodies to create regulations that promote the recycling of e-waste. This could include offering incentives such as discounts or rebates for residents who dispose of their old electronics at certified recycling centers.
4. **Collaboration with E-Waste Management Companies**: Local authorities and businesses should collaborate with certified e-waste management companies to host regular e-waste collection drives, making it easier for residents to dispose of their electronic waste in an environmentally friendly manner.

Conclusion

The BCIP students' e-waste management community survey has revealed both a high level of environmental awareness and a significant gap in proper disposal practices. By addressing the identified challenges, including increasing public awareness and providing convenient collection options, it is possible to reduce the environmental impact of e-waste in the community. Through collaboration between government bodies, businesses, and residents, more effective e-waste management solutions can be implemented, promoting a cleaner and safer environment for all.

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